

## Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 145252  
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 AF-10  
ACDA-12 IO-13 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00  
XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 CA-01  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PPT-01 /119 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:VGRAY:BJR  
APPROVED BY EUR:GEORGE S. VEST  
EUR:JEGOODBY  
EUR/CE:WMWOESSNER  
S/S - MR. ANDERSON

-----115377 081537Z /45

O P 081437Z JUN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 145252

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PGOV, GE, US

SUBJECT: GDR FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER'S MEETING WITH THE  
THE SECRETARY

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING THEIR HALF-HOUR MEETING JUNE 6,  
THE SECRETARY AND GDR FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER DISCUSSED  
THE CONSULAR CONVENTION, GDR ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA, DIVIDED  
FAMILIES AND HUMANITARIAN ISSUES, CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS,  
AND TRADE ISSUES. FISCHER LEFT WITH SECRETARY A ;COMPROMISE  
PROPOSAL ON THE CONSULAR CONVENTION THAT UNFORTUNATELY  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 145252

PROVED TO BE MERELY A REVERSION TO THE GDR'S TEXT OF  
NOVEMBER. ON AFRICA FISCHER DENIED ANY GDR INVOLVEMENT IN  
THE SHABA INVASION AND CONTENTED THAT, IN GENERAL, GDR  
ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA ARE LIMITED TO ASSISTANCE AND  
TRAINING IN THE ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL AREAS. END  
SUMMARY

2. THE SECRETARY RAISED THE SUBJECT OF THE CONSULAR  
CONVENTION, SAYING THAT WITHOUT PROGRESS IN THIS AREA,  
MEANINGFUL PROGRESS IN OUR GENERAL RELATIONS WOULD BE VERY

DIFFICULT. HE REMINDED FISCHER THAT, WHEN THE TWO LAST MET IN SEPTEMBER, HE (THE SECRETARY) HAD PROPOSED SEPARATE STATEMENTS ON THE NATIONALITY QUESTION AND WAS PUZZLED BY THE LACK OF PROGRESS, GIVEN FISCHER'S AGREEMENT TO THAT

PROPOSAL. FISCHER REPLIED THAT HE TOO WAS PUZZLED. SEPARATE STATEMENTS WERE INDEED A GOOD IDEA BUT SHOULD NOT PRESENT THE OTHER PARTY WITH A PROBLEM IT COULD NOT DIGEST. FISCHER SAID THAT HE HAD UNDERSTOOD IN SEPTEMBER THAT EACH PARTY WOULD ADDRESS ITS OWN PROBLEM. HE HAD ALSO UNDERSTOOD THAT THE U.S. HAD NO TREATIES WITH OTHER COUNTRIES CONTAINING NATIONALITY CLAUSES. SINCE THEN, HE SAID, HE HAD LEARNED THAT THE U.S. HAS SUCH TREATIES WITH THE U.K. AND JAPAN. HE THEN PRODUCED A TEXT (PARA 9 BELOW) WHICH HE SAID WAS BASED ON THE LANGUAGE IN THOSE TREATIES, SAYING THAT IT WAS "A COMPROMISE BUT ACCEPTABLE". FISCHER HOPED THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD ALSO FIND THIS TEXT ACCEPTABLE AND SAID IT WAS A PROPITIOUS DATE FOR REACHING A SOLUTION ON THIS ISSUE SINCE IT WAS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE UK-GDR CONSULAR CONVENTION. THE "COMPROMISE," HE SAID, WOULD INVOLVE THE GDR'S ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE U.S. MAINTAINS ITS POSITION ON NATIONALITY. (FYI: A LATER READING OF THE "COMPROMISE" TEXT INDICATED THAT FISCHER CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 145252

MEANT HERE U.S. NATIONALITY NOT GERMAN NATIONALITY.) "WE WOULD NOT", HE SAID, "WANT TO HURT YOUR ALLY AND WE WOULD NOT WANT TO BE EMBARRASSED OURSELVES." THE SECRETARY SAID THAT HE WOULD STUDY THE PROPOSAL "PROMPTLY" AND WOULD PROVIDE THE GDR WITH AN ANSWER "BEFORE HE LEFT NEXT WEEK."

3. TURNING TO AFRICA, THE SECRETARY SAID HE HAD NOTICED IN THE PRESS THAT GDR MINISTER OF DEFENSE HOFFMANN HAD RECENTLY VISITED AFRICA. HE ASKED FISCHER FOR HIS VIEWS OF DEVELOPMENTS IN ZAIRE. FISCHER SAID THAT HOFFMANN'S VISIT AND THE EVENTS IN ZAIRE WERE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS HAVING NOTHING TO DO WITH EACH OTHER. HE NOTED THAT THE EVENTS IN ZAIRE HAD STARTED WHILE HE (FISCHER) WAS IN BELGIUM. HE HAD RECEIVED MANY QUESTIONS THERE ABOUT WHETHER THERE WERE GDR TROOPS IN ZAIRE. IT WAS OBVIOUS, HE SAID, THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE WANTED TO HAVE HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO BRUSSELS HARMED BY HAVING TROOPS IN ZAIRE AT THE SAME TIME. FISCHER SAID THAT HE "ASSUMED" THAT THE SECRETARY "RECEIVES HIS INFORMATION NOT ONLY FROM THE PRESS" AND ADDED THAT EVENTS IN ZAIRE ARE "AN INTERNAL AFFAIR IN WHICH THE GDR IS NOT INVOLVED." NOBODY FROM OUTSIDE, HE SAID, SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN ZAIRE. THAT GOES FOR US AND FOR OTHERS. CLAIMING THAT HE COULD NOT TELL THE SECRETARY WHAT IS HAPPENING, HE REPEATED THAT IF THERE IS TROUBLE IN ZAIRE, IT IS INTERNAL. EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES CAN ONLY HURT. HE REMINDED THE SECRETARY THAT GDR HAS

NO OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE BUT THAT THAT FACT IS NOT RELATED TO RECENT EVENTS. THE SECRETARY THEN REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO REPORTS THAT THE GDR WAS INVOLVED WITH THE TRAINING OF KATANGAN GENDARMES WHO HAD INVADED SHABA.

FISCHER RESPONDED WITH: "THESE REPORTS WILL NOT GAIN TRUTH BY THEIR BEING REPEATED." " WE HAVE TRAINED NOBODY AND WILL NOT", HE ADDED. " IN GENERAL" HE SAID "WE HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATING ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND THE TRAINING OF CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 145252

CADRES IN THE ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL AREAS." THIS HE SAID "APPLIES TO ALL OF AFRICA AND TO OTHER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES." "YOU MAY" HE CONCLUDED "TAKE THAT AS AUTHENTIC."

4. WITH REGARD TO CSCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS, THE SECRETARY SAID THAT HE WAS PLEASED WITH RECENT PROGRESS CONCERNING DIVIDED FAMILIES. WE HOPED, HE SAID, THAT THIS PROGRESS WILL CARRY OVER TO OTHER CASES, SPECIFICALLY THOSE OF THE WILHELMI FAMILY AND GUNDRUN KOCH. THE SECRETARY ALSO SAID THAT HE WOULD WELCOME CONSULTATION THAT WOULD LEAD TO PROGRESS AND LESS ACRIMONY. HE PROPOSED THEREFORE THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN MEET WITH HER COUNTERPART IN THE GDR. IN THIS REGARD THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT DERIAN WOULD SOON BE IN EUROPE AND THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE HELPFUL. FISCHER SAID THAT HE HAD ABSOLUTELY NOTHING AGAINST SUCH A MEETING AND WAS IN FACT FOR IT. FISCHER ALLOWED THAT HE WAS NOT A CONSULAR OFFICER AND WAS ONLY INTERESTED IN DIVIDED FAMILY CASES TO THE EXTENT THEY CAUSE "PROBLEMS". SO FAR HE SAID THESE CASES HAD "LACKED SUFFICIENT MASS" TO ATTRACT HIS ATTENTION. HIS CONSULAR OFFICERS ARE ADDRESSING AND SOLVING THESE CASES AND HE ADDED "WORK ON THE BASIS OF BINDING POLITICAL DECISIONS." IN CLOSING, FISCHER NOTED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD RAISED ONLY TWO NAMES.

5. RETURNING TO THE CONSULAR CONVENTION FISCHER SAID THAT HE IS AGAINST LINKAGES THAT "BIND OUR LEGS SO THAT WE CAN NOT WALK." HE WAS MENTIONING THIS, HE SAID, IN RELATION TO THE CONSULAR CONVENTION, SINCE, IF WE ARE LINKING PROBLEMS, HE WOULD HOPE THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD CAREFULLY EXAMINE HIS "COMPROMISE" PROPOSAL ON THIS PROBLEM. SAYING THAT HE OWED IT TO HIMSELF AND TO THE SECRETARY, HE ADDED THAT HE HAD THE FEELING THAT THEIR TALK IN SEPTEMBER HAD NOT BEEN UNDERSTOOD BY THEIR STAFFS. HE HAD, HE SAID, LEFT CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 145252

IN SEPTEMBER WITH THE FEELING THAT THEY HAD "FOUND A SOLUTION THAT WOULD NOT INVOLVE ONE PARTY EXPECTING THE OTHER PARTY TO DO SOMETHING IT COULD NOT DO." THAT SOLUTION, WHICH HE TERMED "A FACE SAVING SOLUTION," WOULD

HAVE INVOLVED BOTH SIDES DOING WHAT WAS FEASIBLE UNFORTUNATELY, HE SAID, THINGS HAD THEN BROKEN DOWN. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT HE, TOO, THOUGHT THEY HAD A SOLUTION, ACCORDING TO WHICH EACH SIDE WOULD STATE ITS POSITION ON NATIONALITY. HE HOPED THAT, AFTER EXAMINING FISCHER'S COMPROMISE PROPOSAL, WE WOULD PUT "THIS MATTER ASIDE ONCE AND FOR ALL TO WHICH FISCHER REPLIED; "WE

ARE NOT TREADING ON YOUR FEET, PLEASE DON'T TREAD ON OURS."

6. IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S QUESTION AS TO WHETHER HE HAD ANY OTHER ISSUES TO RAISE, FISCHER BROUGHT UP THE MATTER OF A CULTURAL AGREEMENT. IN THE CULTURAL AREA, HE SAID, WE HAVE A "VIVID EXCHANGE." HE ASKED WHY THIS COULD NOT BE CARRIED FORWARD ON A "CONTRACTUAL BASIS".

7. THE VOLUME OF OUR TRADE COMPARED TO OUR OVERALL RELATIONS, FISCHER SAID, IS ALMOST NEGLIGIBLE. IN THE TRADE AREA, HE CLAIMED, THERE WERE LOST OPPORTUNITIES. FOREIGN TRADE STATE SECRETARY BEIL, HE SAID, HAD CONFIRMED TO HIM THERE ARE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES NOT ONLY IN GRAIN SALES BUT IN GENERAL. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, SOME BARRIERS, NAMELY MFN, CREDITS AND THE GDR'S FISHING QUOTA. THAT QUOTA FISCHER NOTED WAS ZERO POINT ZERO. REMOVAL OF SUCH BARRIERS AND EXPANSION OF TRADE WOULD HAVE GOOD EFFECTS ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND IN THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT. WE HAD TO CONSIDER, HE CONCLUDED, NOT ONLY OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS BUT "THE RADIANCE" OF THOSE RELATIONS IN EUROPE WHERE WE HAVE "GREATER RESPONSIBILITIES THAN NORMAL." 'FRANKLY,' FISCHER SAID, "YOU COULD GET ALONG WITHOUT RELATIONS WITH US AND SO COULD WE. BUT THAT WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06 STATE 145252

IRRESPONSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE IMPACT ON THE EUROPEAN CLIMATE." "I HAVE TRIED TO BE AS PRECISE AS POSSIBLE," FISCHER CONCLUDED, "PERHAPS A BIT BRUTAL BUT NEVERTHELESS REALISTIC." THE SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT WE, TOO, BELIEVE IN REALITIES AND REALIZE THAT OUR RELATIONS CAN HAVE A POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE EFFECT ON EUROPE. WE HOPE, HE SAID, THAT THAT EFFECT WILL BE POSITIVE SINCE WE FAVOR DETENTE. WE REALIZE, HE SAID, THAT WE HAVE DIFFERENCES BUT WE SHOULD SEEK MORE COMMON GROUND IN THE FUTURE.

8. FISCHER THEN SAID THAT HE WANTED TO RAISE TWO ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC ITEMS. TO BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO REALIZE THE TRADE OPPORTUNITIES ABOUT WHICH HE HAD JUST SPOKEN, FISCHER SAID THAT THE GDR NEEDED A TRADE POST IN NEW YORK. BEIL, HE SAID, HAD LEFT THE U.S. WITH THAT VERY STRONG IMPRESSION. FISCHER THEN ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF LONG-TERM MULTIPLE-ENTRY VISAS FOR BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS. AT THE SECRETARY'S REQUEST,

ASSISTANT-SECRETARY VEST INFORMED FISCHER THAT THE QUESTION OF TRADE OFFICES HAD BEEN UNDER REVIEW FOR SOME TIME. AT THE MOMENT, HE SAID, WE WERE NOT IN A POSITION TO ALLOW THE OPENING OF NEW OFFICES, SINCE OUR GENERAL RELATIONS HAVE "NOT SUFFICIENTLY DEVELOPED." VEST THEN TOLD FISCHER THAT WE HAD RECENTLY BEGUN THE PROCESS WHICH WOULD LEAD TO THE GRANTING OF SIX-MONTH MULTIPLE-ENTRY VISAS TO GDR

BUSINESS TRAVELLERS. FISCHER ASKED IF THAT PROCESS MIGHT BE CARRIED OUT FASTER. CONCLUDING THEIR CONVERSATION, THE SECRETARY SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN USEFUL TO TALK DIRECTLY. HE SAID HE WOULD AGAIN EXAMINE FISCHER'S PROPOSED TEXT AND REVIEW THE OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY HIM. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN'S VISIT TO BERLIN. FISCHER TOLD THE SECRETARY THAT CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 07 STATE 145252

HE PROPOSED TO CHARACTERIZE US/GDR RELATIONS TO THE PRESS AS "NORMAL BUT CAPABLE OF DEVELOPMENT." THE SECRETARY DID NOT DISAGREE.

9. THE TEXTS OF THE LETTER WHICH FISCHER DESCRIBED AS A "COMPROMISE" PROPOSAL ON THE CONSULAR CONVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT: SIR, I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE CONSULAR CONVENTION SIGNED THIS DATE BETWEEN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. IT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS LETTER TO CONVEY TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC ON THE SUBJECT OF NATIONALITY.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TAKES THE VIEW THAT THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, LIKE ANY OTHER STATE, HAS THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A PERSON ACQUIRES OR LOSES ITS NATIONALITY. IN THIS CONTEXT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC PLACES ON RECORD THAT IT ADHERES TO ITS POSITION REGARDING THE NATIONALITY OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC.

THE TERM "NATIONALS", IN RELATION TO THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, MEANS ALL PERSONS WHO HOLD THE NATIONALITY OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC UNDER THE LAWS OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, INCLUDING, WHERE THE CONTEXT PERMITS, ALL JURIDICAL ENTITIES DULY CREATED UNDER THE LAW OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. SINCERELY YOURS, END TEXT.

BEGIN TEXT: SIR, I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE CONSULAR CONVENTION SIGNED THIS DATE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. IT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS LETTER TO CONVEY TO THE GOVERNMENT

OF THE GERMAN-DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC THE POSITION OF THE  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 08 STATE 145252

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON THE SUBJECT OF NATIONALITY.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TAKES THE VIEW THAT  
THE UNITED STATES, LIKE ANY OTHER STATE, HAS THE RIGHT  
TO DETERMINE THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A PERSON ACQUIRES  
OR LOSES ITS NATIONALITY. IN THIS CONTEXT THE GOVERNMENT

OF THE UNITED STATES PLACES ON RECORD THAT IT ADHERES TO  
ITS POSITION REGARDING UNITED STATES NATIONALITY.

THE TERM "NATIONALS", IN RELATIONS TO THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA, MEANS ALL CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES AND  
ALL PERSONS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
INCLUDING, WHERE THE CONTEXT PERMITS, ALL JURIDICAL  
ENTITIES DULY CREATED IN, OR UNDER THE LAW OF, ANY PART  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OR OF ANY STATE OR  
TERRITORY THEREOF TO WHICH THE CONVENTION APPLIES.  
SINCERELY YOURS,

ADDITION: THE TWO SIDES CONFIRM THE UNDERSTANDING  
REACHED THAT THE CONSULAR CONVENTION SIGNED THIS DATE  
AND THE PRESENT EXCHANGE OF LETTERS SHALL NOT AFFECT ANY  
AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED BY EITHER SIDE WITH THIRD STATES.  
END TEXT.

10. FOR BONN: YOU MAY DRAW ON ABOVE IN BRIEFING BONN  
GROUP. -

11. OTHER ASPECTS OF FISCHER VISIT SEPTELS. VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 26 sep 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE145252  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** EUR/CE:VGRAY:BJR  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780239-1111  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t197806115/baaaeyvw.tel  
**Line Count:** 308  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 892d4f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 6  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2176799  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GDR FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER'S MEETING WITH THE THE SECRETARY  
**TAGS:** PGOV, GC, US, (FISCHER, OSKAR), (VANCE, CYRUS R)  
**To:** BERLIN BONN MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/892d4f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014